

**From:** Mike Miller (Ramesys - Nottingham)  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 12/10/01 7:36am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

I would like to register a comment on the proposed Microsoft Anti-trust case settlement.

As the currently proposed settlement stands, I am concerned that regulation of Microsoft's anti-competitive activities excludes actions against non-profit organisations.

A large proportion of the most promising alternatives to Microsoft software are developed by not-for-profit organisations, often under open-source licenses like the GPL (Gnu Public License). For example:

- \* The Linux operating system and many of it's components
- \* The Apache web-server
- \* The Samba Windows network file sharing tools
- \* The Mozilla web browser

These products provide strong alternatives to Microsoft's offerings, yet because they are produced by non-profit organisations, the currently proposed settlement allows Microsoft to carry on with anti-competitive actions against these products.

For the settlement to have any value in the current software marketplace, it must protect both normal commercial software and open-source or other not-for-profit developed solutions equally. Failing to address this issue will give Microsoft license to attempt to stifle the open-source software movement with anti-competitive practices in the same way that it has stifled commercial competitors in the past.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Miller  
Internet Consultant  
Ramesys e-Business Services Ltd.  
Email : Mike.Miller@ramesys.com

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